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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
Eighth (extraordinary) session
Geneva, 10-28 May 1993

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The eighth (extraordinary) session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17, will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 10 to 28 May 1993. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 10 May 1993, at 10.30 a.m.

2. The attached provisional agenda and annotations for the eighth session of the Committee have been prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Committee.

3. The attention of the States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 5, containing the list of reports that will be before the Committee at its eighth session.

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Organization of work.

3. Action by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session and the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session.

4. Submission of reports by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant.

5. Consideration of reports:

   (a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant;

   (b) Reports submitted by specialized agencies in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant.

6. General discussion on the rights of the ageing and elderly in relation to the rights recognized in the Covenant.

7. Preparatory activities relating to the World Conference on Human Rights.

8. Relations with United Nations organs and other treaty bodies.

9. Formulation of suggestions and recommendations of a general nature based on the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant and by the specialized agencies.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 5 of the rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda of any session shall be the adoption of the agenda, except for the election of the officers when required under rule 14. In accordance with rule 6 the Committee, during a session, may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, add, delete or defer items.

2. Organization of work

In accordance with rule 8 of its rules of procedure, at the beginning of each session the Committee shall consider appropriate organizational matters, including the schedule of its meetings. In this connection, the attention of the members of the Committee is drawn to the draft programme of work for the session, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and in accordance with established practice (E/C.12/1993/L.1).

3. Action by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session and the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session

The Committee, at its fourth session, decided that, at its future sessions, a new item should be added to its agenda so as to enable it to reflect on any feedback received from the discussion of its work by the Council, as well as by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights (E/1990/23, para. 297).

The Committee will have before it under this item the following documents:

(a) General Assembly resolutions 47/111, 47/122 and 47/123;

(b) Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1993/13, 1993/14 and 1993/15.

The attention of the members of the Committee is drawn to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/15 of 26 February 1993 in which the Commission expressed its satisfaction with the serious and constructive manner in which the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was undertaking its functions and welcomed further efforts of the Committee to improve its methods of work. In its resolution 1993/14 of 26 February 1993, the Commission welcomed the decision of the Committee to urge all States parties to submit reports on time and to take appropriate measures in relation to those States parties whose reports were long overdue. The Commission took note of the support expressed by the Committee for the drafting of an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights granting the right to individuals or groups to submit communications concerning non-compliance with the Covenant. Finally, in its resolution 1993/13 of 26 February 1993, the Commission encouraged the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to pay more attention in its work to the question of extreme poverty and exclusion from society.

4. Submission of reports by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 59, paragraph 1, of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall at each session consider the status of submission of reports under article 16 of the Covenant and may make appropriate recommendations to the Council, including recommendations to the effect that the Secretary-General should send reminders to States parties from which reports have not been received.

The Committee will have before it under this item the following documents:

(a) Revised schedule for the submission of reports by States parties under articles 16 and 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/1990/5);

(b) A note by the Secretary-General on the States parties to the Covenant and the status of submission of reports (E/C.12/1993/2);

(c) Revised general guidelines regarding the form and contents of reports to be submitted by States parties (E/C.12/1991/1);

(d) General Assembly resolution 47/111 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/11 and decision 1992/260.

5. Consideration of reports

(a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 61, paragraph 2, of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall normally consider the reports submitted by States parties under article 16 of the Covenant in the order in which they have been received by the Secretary-General. Representatives of the reporting States are entitled to be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined; such representatives should be able to make statements on the reports submitted by their Governments and reply to questions which may be put to them by the members of the Committee.

The Committee, at its seventh session, having discussed the arrangements for the consideration of reports submitted by States parties, requested the Secretary-General to schedule nine reports from nine States parties for consideration at its eighth session. The Committee also decided to conduct at its eighth session a review of the implementation of the provisions of the Covenant in four States parties which have not submitted any report since ratifying the Covenant, on the basis of any information that may be available to it. These States parties are Belgium, Kenya, Lebanon and Suriname.

In accordance with rule 62, paragraph 2, of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the opening date and duration of the eighth session of the Committee at which their respective reports will be examined and has invited them to send representatives to attend the meetings of the Committee.

As at 1 March 1993, the reports listed below had been received by the Secretary-General. The reports of the States parties which are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its eighth session are identified by an asterisk. The tentative timetable for consideration of those reports, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, is contained in document E/C.12/1993/L.1.

Initial reports concerning articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant

Senegal (E/1984/6/Add.22)

Initial reports concerning articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant

Nicaragua*	(E/1986/3/Add.15)

Second periodic reports concerning articles 13 to 15 of the Covenant

Ukraine*	(E/1990/7/Add.11)
Germany*	(E/1990/7/Add.12)
Australia*	(E/1990/7/Add.13)
Romania	(E/1990/7/Add.14)

Initial reports concerning articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant

New Zealand	(E/1990/5/Add.5)
Iceland*	(E/1990/5/Add.6)
Uruguay*	(E/1990/5/Add.7)
Iran, Islamic Republic of*	(E/1990/5/Add.9)
Viet Nam*	(E/1990/5/Add.10)
New Zealand (Tokelau)	(E/1990/5/Add.11)
New Zealand (Niue)	(E/1990/5/Add.12)

Second periodic reports concerning articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant

Canada*	(E/1990/6/Add.3)
Mexico	(E/1990/6/Add.4)

(b) Reports submitted by specialized agencies in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 67 of its rules of procedure, the Committee is entrusted with the task of considering the reports submitted by specialized agencies pursuant to article 18 of the Covenant.

In accordance with rule 68 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of the specialized agencies concerned may make statements on matters falling within the scope of the activities of their respective organization in the course of the discussion by the Committee of the report of each State party to the Covenant. The representatives of the States parties presenting reports to the Committee shall be free to respond to, or take into account, the statements made by the specialized agencies. The Secretary-General has invited the following specialized agencies to send representatives to attend the meetings of the Committee: International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Any reports that may be received from the specialized agencies under article 18 of the Covenant will be made available to the Committee in due course.

6. General discussion on the rights of the ageing and elderly in relation to the rights recognized in the Covenant

At its seventh session, the Committee decided that at its eighth session a day of general discussion would be held on Monday, 24 May 1993, devoted to the rights of the ageing and elderly in relation to the rights recognized in the Covenant. For this purpose, the Committee agreed to invite all interested agencies and individual experts to participate in its general discussion.

7. Preparatory activities relating to the World Conference on Human Rights

Under this item, the Committee will have before it the report on the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference and will receive an oral briefing on the session from one of its members.

8. Relations with United Nations organs and other treaty bodies

The Committee decided at its sixth session to nominate individual members to follow the work of each of the other treaty bodies. Such members are to follow as closely as possible the work of the relevant committees, to liaise where possible with members of those committees and to present an oral report on developments of both a procedural and substantive nature which appeared to be of specific relevance to the work of the Committee (E/1992/23, paras. 371-373).

9. Formulation of suggestions and recommendations of a general nature based on the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant and by the specialized agencies

Pursuant to rule 64 of its rules of procedure, the Committee may wish to make suggestions and recommendations of a general nature on the basis of its consideration of reports submitted by States parties and the reports submitted by specialized agencies, in order to assist the Council to fulfil, in particular, its responsibilities under articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant. The Committee may also wish to make suggestions for consideration by the Council with reference to articles 19, 22 and 23 of the Covenant.